

Grants to Organizations

1999 ANNUAL REPORT



The National Endowment for the Arts offers assistance to a wide range of nonprofit organizations to support their arts programming. The Endowment funds exemplary projects in all artistic disciplines including dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, media arts, music, musical theater, opera, theater and visual arts in addition to supporting arts education, museum, presenting and multidisciplinary projects. All grants must be matched at least equally by non-federal sources of funds. A complete listing of the year's grants is posted on the Endowment's Web site at www.arts.gov.

Fiscal Year 1999 Facts Grants to Organizations

Number of Grant
Applications Received: **2,317**
Number of Grants
Awarded: **1,368**
Dollar Amount of Grants
Awarded: **\$38,890,067**

Creation & Presentation

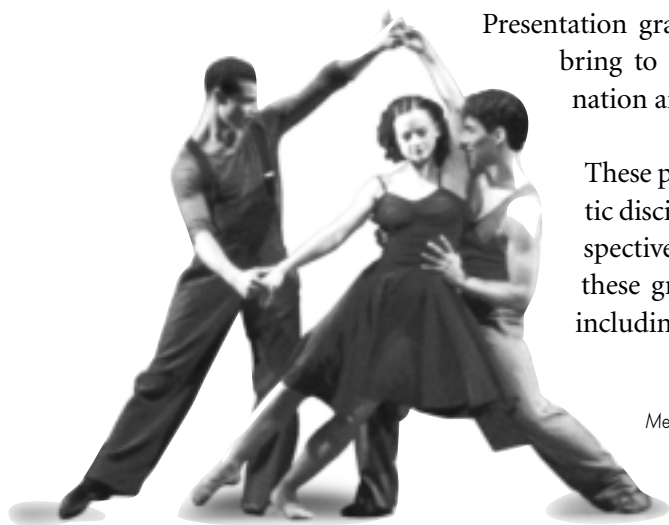
Through its Creation & Presentation grants, the Arts Endowment assists in the creation of artistic work and encourages the public presentation of art forms from all cultures and time periods. Creation & Presentation was the largest award category in Fiscal Year 1999, receiving 43 percent of all Grants to Organizations applications. Funded projects provide resources for artists to create their work through such activities as commissions, residencies, rehearsals, workshops and design charrettes.

Fiscal Year 1999 Facts Creation & Presentation

Number of Grant
Applications Received: **987**
Number of Grants
Awarded: **643**
Dollar Amount of Grants
Awarded: **\$17,165,950**

Projects also facilitate the public presentation of the arts to audiences in a variety of formal and informal settings, from performances and exhibitions to publications, radio and television broadcasts, and new technologies. Creation & Presentation grants sustain the development of artistic creativity and bring to the American people the rich cultural legacy of their nation and the world.

These projects represent the core creative activities of most artistic disciplines and cover an extraordinary range of aesthetic perspectives, scale of institution and geographic location. Most of these grants were for the public presentation of works, often including related educational and interpretive activities.



*Memphis, a signature piece for Ballet Memphis choreographed by Trey McIntyre, celebrates the rich musical heritage of Memphis and its impact around the world.
Photo by Barry Thompson*

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Many new performing arts works have been created with Arts Endowment funds. In 1999, a grant was awarded to the Zivili Kolo Ensemble of Granville, Ohio to support the production of a new work, inspired by the company's 1997 performance tour of refugee camps in Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia. The work incorporated traditional dance and folk music, as well as photographs, video and narrative voiceovers to tell the stories of the refugee communities. In Manchester, New Hampshire, the Alliance for Progress of Hispanic Americans received a grant on behalf of the Alpha Teen Theatre to commission two playwrights to create new work during extended residencies with young people.

Visual arts projects funded by the Endowment include a wide variety of activities. For example, Project Row Houses is a public art project that has helped revitalize one of the poorest neighborhoods in Houston, Texas. In its first four years, this organization renovated 22 abandoned row houses, presented 50 artists' installations, implemented a series of literary and performance events, and hosted summer and after-school programs for youth. The Endowment's 1999 grant to Project Row Houses supported residencies and installations by eight artists from four countries.

Museums and art centers across the country hosted a diverse range of public exhibitions with Endowment funds. In Newcastle, Maine, the Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts received a grant to support an international symposium and two-week residency for 10 artists to create new work. The artists, hailing from across the United States as well as Europe and South America, opened their studios to local residents. Space One Eleven in Birmingham, Alabama curated an exhibition of contemporary Southern artists, hosted in four venues around the city, with its grant.



The world premiere of *Concerto for Sabar Drums and Orchestra* by American composer James DeMars featured African drum and dance ensembles performing with the Phoenix Symphony. Photo by Michael Schwartz for the Phoenix Symphony

And in New York City, the Museum for African Art received a grant for the touring exhibition *Liberated Voices: Contemporary South African Art Since Mandela*, which traveled to five other American venues as well as to Johannesburg.

Among the most effective means for disseminating the arts are literary publications and radio and television broadcasts. For example, the Endowment funded the Latin American Literary Review Press, based in Pittsburgh, to publish fiction by Latino and Latina writers in English translation and present public readings by selected authors in four cities. Listeners around the country were able to enjoy the weekly radio programs *Beale Street Caravan*, featuring blues artists, and *Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz*, thanks to Endowment grants to the Blues Foundation in Memphis, Tennessee and the ETV Endowment of South Carolina respectively. National Public Radio distributes both series.

Some 1999 Creation & Presentation grants funded projects celebrating the new millennium, such as a grant to the Des Moines Symphony in Iowa for activities that included the premiere performance of a work by composer David Ott recognizing 20th-century space travel. A grant to the Los Angeles Poetry Festival supported the Fin de Millennium Poetry Festival, a city-wide celebration. In Seattle, On the Boards produced *Redefining Performance at the Turn of the Century — An Interdisciplinary Approach*, a project comprising five intensive creation and performance residencies.

Arts Endowment funds have broad geographic distribution through this category. Creation & Presentation grants were made directly to 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In addition, 172 of the 643 grants went toward multi-state projects that toured or were distributed across state lines, broadening the impact of the federal investment. For example, a grant to the Academy of Indian Performing Arts, Inc. in Lincoln, Massachusetts helped make possible a national tour of *Kanya*, a multimedia work based on Indian classical dance, music and poetry that traveled to 14 states. Another grant to the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services in Dearborn, Michigan supported a five-state tour of three Arabic traditional music groups.



The Boston Lyric Opera presented a new production of Philip Glass' *Akhmat* in its Egyptian season as part of its commitment to presenting 20th century operas.
Photo by Richard Feldman



Education & Access

The Arts Endowment maintains that all Americans should have lifelong opportunities to experience the arts as learners, creators and audience members. Education & Access grants expand opportunities for lifelong arts learning and help make the arts available to all Americans.

Direct grants were awarded to organizations in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Of the 432 grants, 103 had multi-state impact. For example, a grant was made to the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative in Sturgis, South Dakota to expand the Prairie Winds Writing Project into neighboring Wyoming. The program benefits both students and teachers, and includes one-on-one mentorships with professional writers, workshops and publication opportunities.

Fiscal Year 1999 Facts Education & Access

Number of Grant
Applications Received: **828**
Number of Grants
Awarded: **432**
Dollar Amount of Grants
Awarded: **\$12,309,520**



Florida Stage's production *Yes, I am Talking, You Just Can't Hear Me* is part of its Young Voices series. Performed by middle and high school students, these plays address issues such as violence, illiteracy and substance abuse. Photo by Susan Green

For students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, research has shown that the development of artistic skills can improve cognition, increase confidence and communication, and enhance the overall learning environment. Frequently, units of state and local governments look to the Endowment to assist with their projects. For example, the Arts Alliance of Jackson and Hinds County, in Jackson, Mississippi received an Endowment grant to provide funding and technical assistance for arts programming in the two counties. The Arkansas Department of Education was funded for a consortium project providing professional development for arts teachers, arts-in-education roster artists, and museum docents and faculty.

The Endowment's Education grants in 1999 encompassed a full range of learning experiences, such as an award to Young Audiences of Indiana supporting the Cornerstone Dance Project: Positive Interaction through Dance, born from the Washington Township School District's desire to expand the dance curriculum in elementary and middle schools. The Springfield Symphony Orchestra in Massachusetts used its Endowment grant to collaborate with the Springfield Science Museum on a project exploring rhythm in both earth science and music that reached more than 3,000 elementary school students.

A grant to the Brannigan Cultural Center Foundation in Las Cruces, New Mexico funded *Another Planet*, a collaborative arts project involving more than 2,000 middle school students from a low-income community. Developed in the aftermath of a middle school shooting incident, it brought

together artists in a variety of disciplines from all parts of southern New Mexico to conduct classroom residencies.

Projects emphasizing access to the arts varied widely and included distinct approaches to making the arts available to all Americans. In Idaho, a grant was awarded to Boise State University on behalf of Poetry in Public Places to support Idaho Skylights. This project placed illustrated poetry posters on school bus ceilings and featured poets and artists riding the rural, morning bus routes to discuss poetry with students. The Repertory Dance Theatre of Salt Lake City, Utah traveled to schools in California and Utah to present a retrospective of 100 years of modern dance history. A Traveling Jewish Theatre, based in San Francisco, mounted a 20th anniversary, 20-city tour of *Diamonds in the Dark*, a new work celebrating Yiddish poetry.

The Endowment also helped make possible high-impact projects reaching underserved communities and people with disabilities. A grant to the Grass Roots Art and Community Efforts (GRACE) of Hardwick, Vermont funded community arts workshops for developmentally disabled adults and children in a rural and economically depressed region of Vermont. The project is an expansion of GRACE's successful model in nearby Greensboro, which provides participants with increased opportunities for personal growth and avenues for self-expression. GRACE also provides assistance to groups across the country that wish to start similar programs.

Another example is the grant to the Atlanta Opera that supported the company's education and outreach program for students who are mentally and physically challenged. Performed by the Atlanta Opera Studio, which tours one-act operas in English for young audiences, the project includes free performances with audio description and sign interpretation as well as workshops designed for students with special needs. Communities of Faith for Housing in Hoboken, New Jersey, received a grant to expand the Creative Writing Workshop at the Hoboken Homeless Shelter and increase the circulation of its quarterly anthology, *Pieces from Wandering Minds*.

Other funded projects exposed participants to various ethnic art forms. These included a multidisciplinary residency project developed by the Sheboygan Arts Foundation in Wisconsin in which traditional artists from the Hmong, Hispanic, and blue-collar German and Dutch communities collaborated with local teens to create works in dance, writing, photography and sculpture. The Montana Indian Art and Culture Association presented a weekend festival, Renaissance of the Bozeman Trail, that showcased Native American artists working in both traditional and contemporary forms, and provided opportunities for people of other cultures to learn about Native Americans in their community.



Kimberly Van Pett, a French horn player with the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra in Raleigh, at the orchestra's instrument petting zoo. Photo by Karen Tam



Heritage & Preservation

The diverse artistic heritage of the United States is unique in the world. The Endowment's purposes through Heritage & Preservation grants are to honor, assist and make visible those artists and forms of artistic expression that reflect this diversity; preserve significant artistic accomplishments of America's many cultures; and conserve important works of art. Heritage & Preservation projects were funded in 37 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Forty-five of the 169 grants have multi-state impact.

Fiscal Year 1999 Facts Heritage & Preservation

Number of Grant
Applications Received: **270**
Number of Grants
Awarded: **169**
Dollar Amount of Grants
Awarded: **\$3,548,000**



The exhibition *Lions & Eagles & Bulls: Early American Tavern & Inn Signs from The Connecticut Historical Society* displayed the society's collection of 18th and 19th century sign paintings. Photo courtesy of the Williamstown Art Conservation Center

Heritage projects supported by the Endowment ranged from the creation of a 45-foot totem pole on the Makah Reservation in Neah Bay, Washington to the performance of orchestral gospel music by the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra in Indiana. Elders of the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma taught workshops in traditional tribal crafts to younger tribal members. The Florida Division of Historical Resources received a grant for the statewide Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program. The third annual Festival of Kentucky Folklife was funded by a grant to the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort.

In New York, the Jewish Heritage Writing Project received a grant that pairs Holocaust survivors with young, established writers to produce publishable memoirs. In Philadelphia, the Endowment supported the public events associated with Moonstone, Inc.'s 16th Annual Celebration of Black Writing. And in Washington, D.C., the Endowment sponsored the Seventh Annual Independence Day Concert at the Washington Monument and its National Public Radio broadcast, which reached approximately 350,000 people.

Preservation projects funded in 1999 included a broad spectrum of artistic disciplines. A grant to the Grace Cathedral in San Francisco restored 35 Gothic Revival stained glass windows dating from 1930 to 1945. Another grant supported the structural restoration of Fallingwater, a National Historic Landmark in Mill Run, Pennsylvania designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1935. Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas received funding for the restoration, documentation and performance of three musical theater ballets by the legendary choreographer Agnes de Mille.

In the area of film preservation, New York's Museum of Modern Art, which saves over 100 films each year from disintegration, preserved important early films including works by Charlie Chaplin, D.W. Griffiths and Tom Mix; the 1917 production of *A Tale of Two Cities*; and the 1925 John Ford picture, *Kentucky Pride*, among others. In the visual arts, the Endowment supported a conservation survey of five public artworks in the Boston subway system, as part of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's Adopt the Arts program.



The International Center for Photography in New York City and George Eastman House in Rochester, New York joined together for Focus on Photography, a project that provides broader access to the collections and resources of these two institutions. Featured here is a still from Frank Powell's 1914 film, *The Stain*. Photo courtesy of George Eastman House



Planning & Stabilization

America's nonprofit arts organizations, large and small, constantly seek to improve their financial and administrative structures so as to effectively carry out their work. Through Planning & Stabilization grants, the Arts Endowment strengthens the ability of arts organizations to realize their goals.

Planning grants help an organization assess its strengths and weaknesses. Funded projects may be comprehensive, including

all areas of operations, or targeted, focusing on specific activities. Planning & Stabilization grants included \$957,500 awarded to arts service organizations such as the American Symphony Orchestra League, Dance/USA, Theatre Communications Group and Opera America for projects serving their fields.

Some funded projects develop strategies for building partnerships and resources among a group of organizations linked by geography, programming, artistic field or mission. Such a grant was awarded to the Nebraska Arts Council on behalf of a consortium of 10 small and mid-size Nebraska arts organizations to obtain financial planning and technical assistance.

Stabilization grants help organizations realize their appropriate institutional size; maximize and diversify their resources; or enhance their abilities to serve their constituents. For example, the Arts Council of Oklahoma City provided the Stage Center performing arts facility with computer technology capable of building a collective database to market the Center and at least five participating local theater companies. A grant to Heart of the Beast Theatre in Minneapolis supported an initiative designed to secure increased earned and contributed income for the organization.

A number of 1999 grants facilitated long-range planning, marketing assessments and/or feasibility studies. One example is the grant awarded to Young Aspirations/Young Artists (YA/YA) of New Orleans, Louisiana for a year-long evaluation of its achievements over the past ten years — a period in which the organization helped

Fiscal Year 1999 Facts Planning & Stabilization

Number of Grant
Applications Received: **232**
Number of Grants
Awarded: **124**
Dollar Amount of Grants
Awarded: **\$5,866,597**



Wolf Trap Institute Artist Keter Betts and a preschooler explore music together at the Barns of Wolf Trap in Vienna, Virginia, where a Planning & Stabilization grant will support Wolf Trap's endowment. *Photo by Scott Suchman*

talented, inner-city youth work with professional artists to develop marketable skills. The planning grant allowed YA/YA to assess its training, governance, community involvement and fundraising needs and look to the next decade. The Arizona Opera Company used its grant to hire a consultant who will restructure the organization and develop a five-year plan assessing the organization's financial health.

Some stabilization grants help arts organizations strengthen their institutional capacity by establishing or augmenting a term endowment or term cash reserve. These grants must be matched at least three-to-one by non-federal sources. Forty-seven such grants were awarded in 1999 to organizations such as Young Audiences of Massachusetts, the New York City Ballet, North Dakota's Bismarck-Mandan Orchestral Association, the American Music Theatre Festival of Philadelphia, Indiana's South Bend Symphony Orchestra and Washington State's Tacoma Art Museum.



An outdoor performance of *The Tempest* at Shakespeare & Company's Summer Training Institute. Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Massachusetts received a grant to augment its existing cash reserve. Photo by Kevin Sprangue